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Letter dated 18 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Italy in December 2007 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**

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Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Italy (December 2007)

Introduction

During the presidency of Italy in December 2007 the Security Council held 28 meetings, including three debates, one private debate, 10 briefings and two private meetings with troop-contributing countries. The Council held consultations of the whole on 17 occasions. The Council adopted eight resolutions and six presidential statements, and agreed on five statements to the press. Another six mandates were extended through five exchanges of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council and one note by the President of the Security Council. The Council produced one further note and five other operative letters of the President of the Security Council.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Massimo D'Alema, presided over the private debate on resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999) and read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/49) on the situation in Somalia on 19 December.

A list of the actions of the Security Council in December is appended to this assessment.

Africa

Burundi

On 6 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent Representative of Norway, Ambassador Johan Løvald. He reported that the Peacebuilding Commission had adopted the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi on 5 December, stressing that this was a critical step for the Commission's engagement in Burundi.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members heard a briefing by the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Youssef Mahmoud, on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/682). He highlighted the deterioration in the peace process in the past six months, the inactivity of the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the setbacks in the comprehensive ceasefire agreement. He welcomed the formation of the new Government of National Unity and appealed to the international community not to lose its focus on the country. Council members reaffirmed their support for the activity of the Executive Representative and underlined the importance of rapid implementation of the comprehensive ceasefire agreement and prompt resumption of the Monitoring Mechanism. They also stressed the fundamental role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

On 19 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1791 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) until 31 December 2008, and requested the Secretary-General, also through BINUB, to play a robust political role in support of the peace process, in coordination with regional and international partners.

Central African Republic

On 11 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall, on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/697) on the situation in the country and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). The Special Representative highlighted the fragility of the security situation, which was still very volatile, and the necessity to strengthen the internal political dialogue. He also stressed the importance of the role of BONUCA in supporting the peace process and in fighting the widespread culture of violence and impunity.

Council members agreed on a statement to the press reflecting the positions expressed in consultations. Reaffirming their support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, they expressed their concern about the ongoing insecurity in the Central African Republic, which had led to a severe humanitarian crisis. They condemned the ongoing violence by armed groups, welcomed the extension of the mandate of the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, and took note with appreciation of the Government's preparations for an inclusive political dialogue.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 12 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the worsening situation in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He described the deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation in North Kivu, following fighting between the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and forces led by Laurent Nkunda. Council members expressed their serious concerns about the humanitarian consequences of the fighting and stressed the obligations of all parties under humanitarian international law, and the primary responsibility of the Government in protecting civilians. The Council reiterated the demand that the illegal armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo lay down their arms, in particular the forces of Laurent Nkunda and FDLR.

On 21 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1794 (2007), by which it extended the mandate and capacity of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) until 31 December 2008, and requested the Secretary-General to report by 31 March 2008 on how MONUC could further support the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or take other measures in dealing with illegal foreign and Congolese armed groups.

Guinea-Bissau

On 3 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2007/701) informing him that the Council supported his

intention to extend the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) until 31 December 2008.

On 11 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission (S/2007/744), informing him that the Council supported the request of the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau to have his country included in the agenda of the Commission, and invited the Peacebuilding Commission to provide initial advice on the situation in Guinea-Bissau within 90 days.

On 12 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard briefings by the Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office at Vienna and head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Under-Secretary-General Antonio Maria Costa. Introducing the Secretary-General's report (S/2007/715), his Representative underlined the importance of international assistance in three key sectors: (1) the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, through the International Conference on Drug Trafficking to be held in Lisbon on 19 December as well as the ECOWAS-led regional conference to be organized in 2008; (2) security sector reform — underlining the importance, in this respect, of the census of the armed forces to be conducted by the Government; and (3) preparation of the next legislative elections, indicating that they could be held in October/November 2008. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that the drug problem not only destabilized the country but posed a threat to peace and stability in the entire region, and called for international assistance to allow for the implementation of the operational plan drawn up by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Government.

Council members underlined the progress made by the Government in pursuing national reconciliation, restoring the credibility of the country externally and promoting cooperation with international financial authorities, as well as developing a robust anti-narcotics-trafficking programme. They also acknowledged that the overall situation remained fragile and expressed particular concern about the security threat posed by drug trafficking and organized crime, noting the need for sustained international assistance in order to achieve durable peace and stability.

Following consultations, the President of the Security Council issued a statement to the press.

Liberia

On 14 December, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of Qatar and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, briefed the Council on the status of the sanctions regime, on discussions in the Committee and on the latest findings of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. The Panel's report indicated no evidence of significant breaches of the arms embargo and limited progress on the implementation of targeted sanctions, particularly the assets freeze. It further stressed the need to overcome capacity gaps of relevant national authorities. Members of the Council qualified the work of the Committee as a success story.

On 19 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1792 (2007), by which it renewed the arms embargo and travel ban for a further period of 12 months and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 20 June 2008.

Sierra Leone

On 14 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador Frank Majoor. He reported that the Commission had adopted the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework on 12 December, stressing the importance of this development and advocating continued support by the Security Council for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, particularly in view of the implementation of the Framework.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members heard a briefing by the Executive Representative for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), Victor da Silva Angelo, on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/704). He noted that the parliamentary and presidential elections held in 2007 represented a milestone in the consolidation of peace and stressed the importance for the forthcoming local elections, scheduled for July 2008, to be equally successful. He highlighted the need for vigorous action to bridge the gap between political progress and relative lack of progress on the economic and social fronts. Among specific challenges lying ahead, he pinpointed the completion of the process of security sector reform, the implementation of human rights and the rule of law, strategies to combat corruption and the implementation of the integrated strategy of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Council members underlined the progress achieved so far, expressing satisfaction at the presidential and parliamentary elections and praising UNIOSIL for its contribution. However, the discussion highlighted awareness of the need for continued international assistance to support the country in facing the challenges of poverty, unemployment, security and judicial sector reform, good governance and human rights protection. It further emphasized, in this connection, the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

On 21 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1793 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of UNIOSIL until 30 September 2008.

Somalia

On 17 December, the Council held a debate on Somalia during which it was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, on how to address the situation in that country. The Special Representative made proposals on the political and security fields and called on the international community to commit itself to a clear course of action. He proposed that the Transitional Federal Government assume its responsibilities, unite its ranks and engage with the opposition, which should be part of the political process. He also recommended the deployment of a new "peace presence" to reinforce the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). He advised that the situation in Somalia was deteriorating daily and, if the current trends of internal violence and external neglect continued, the consequences would be catastrophic for peace in the region, the United Nations image and reputation, and the long suffering of Somali civilians.

Council members welcomed the briefing and expressed full support for the efforts of the Special Representative. They reiterated their strong concern at the situation in Somalia and the massive human suffering resulting from it. A representative of Somalia and the Permanent Representative of Portugal, on behalf of the European Union, also took the floor.

On 19 December, the Council met in consultations of the whole to finalize a presidential statement, adopted later that day (S/PRST/2007/49) during a meeting presided by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Massimo D'Alema. The Council welcomed the briefing of the Special Representative on 17 December, expressed strong support for his efforts and looked forward to receiving more details on his proposals. The appointment of the new Prime Minister was also welcomed as an opportunity to make progress in the political and humanitarian fields. The Council urged all Somali parties to reject violence and enter into a substantial dialogue. The Council demanded that all parties in Somalia ensure unfettered access for humanitarian assistance, fulfil their responsibilities and obligations under international humanitarian law, and take the necessary measures to protect civilians. Finally, the Council reiterated its strong support for AMISOM and its request that the Secretary-General develop the existing contingency plans for the possible deployment of a United Nations operation in Somalia and report by 8 February 2008 on progress made in this regard.

On 27 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2007/763) informing him that the members of the Council had taken note of his intention to continue the activities of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) for the biennium 2008-2009.

Sudan

On 5 December, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, briefed the Council on his activities pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005). The Prosecutor highlighted the non-cooperation by the Sudan in the execution of the arrest warrants against two individuals, Ahmad Muhammad Harun, former Minister of State for the Interior and currently Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, and Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-al-Rahman, a Janjaweed/militia leader, issued in April 2007. The Prosecutor appealed to the Council, requesting it to urge the Government of the Sudan to arrest the two individuals and ensure they were brought to account before the International Criminal Court. Members of the Council expressed support for the Court and the Prosecutor's activity. In subsequent consultations of the whole, the Council considered a draft presidential statement introduced by Belgium, France, Italy, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. Although the consultations provided a useful exchange of views, no agreement was reached.

On 7 December, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, Permanent Representative of Italy and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee and on the findings and recommendations in the final report of the Panel of Experts (S/2007/584). The Panel reported some violations of the sanctions regime by the Government and non-State actors in Darfur, including violations of the arms embargo, offensive military overflights, failure to fully implement the targeted financial sanctions and to disarm militia groups, attacks against personnel of the African Union Mission in the Sudan

(AMIS), and widespread violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Ambassador Spatafora informed the Security Council that the Committee had agreed to move forward towards implementing some of the recommendations relating to the work of the Panel and the Committee.

On 13 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). He reported that preparations continued towards the transfer of authorities from AMIS on 31 December, although only a limited number of troops would have been deployed by that date. He recalled the letter of the Secretary-General dated 6 December addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/713) expressing concern about the shortage of critical assets required for a successful deployment. As for cooperation with the Government of the Sudan, the Assistant Secretary-General reported that progress was being made in a number of areas since their meeting on the sidelines of the European Union-Africa Summit in Lisbon on 8 September 2007.

Council members renewed their full support to UNAMID, stressed the need to accelerate its deployment, called on troop-contributing countries to provide all required assets, and reiterated the importance of receiving full cooperation from the Government of the Sudan.

Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

On 5 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2007/710) informing him that the members of the Council had taken note of his intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission.

Cross-border issues in West Africa

On 21 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2007/754) informing him that the members of the Council concurred with his recommendation to extend the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) for a further period of three years, until 31 December 2010.

Asia

Timor-Leste

On 6 December, the Council held a briefing on the Security Council's mission to Timor-Leste (24-30 November 2007). The Permanent Representative of South Africa and head of the mission, Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo, gave a preliminary oral report on the mission, recalling the points that the mission had conveyed to the Timorese authorities and other interlocutors and presenting an overall assessment of the findings. The Council also heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste.

On 13 December, the Council considered the written report of the mission (S/2007/711). The Council received a briefing by the Deputy Permanent

Representative of South Africa and heard statements by the representatives of Timor-Leste, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan, Portugal and Australia.

The primary purpose of the mission was to reaffirm the commitment of the Council to assist the Timorese people in consolidating peace, democratic governance and the rule of law in the post-electoral period, to express the Council's full support for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), and to assess the progress made in the implementation of the UNMIT mandate. The mission was warmly received by the Government and people of Timor-Leste. All interlocutors expressed their gratitude for the United Nations support to Timor-Leste, and their strong desire for the United Nations to stay in the country on a long-term basis.

The report of the mission described the achievements and the remaining challenges facing the country, particularly in the areas of political dialogue, security sector reform, socio-economic development, issues regarding internally displaced persons, capacity-building, governance and human rights. The report provided the Council with timely information to prepare its future deliberations on the UNMIT mandate, the extension of which beyond February 2008 was supported by the mission. The report also emphasized that the future of the country lay in the hands of the Timorese leaders and people, and that they had to take ownership for its development.

Europe

Cyprus

On 7 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission, Michael Møller, gave a briefing to the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), based on the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/699 and Corr.1). The Special Representative noted the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNFICYP be extended for a further period of six months, until 15 June 2008. The Special Representative stressed his firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lay with the Cypriots themselves and that the upcoming year offered an important window of opportunity to make decisive progress, which must be grasped by all parties, in the search for a comprehensive and durable settlement. During the discussions, the Council members shared his disappointment over the lack of progress, despite past calls by the Council, on the implementation of the agreement of 8 July 2006. They also reiterated their support to the activities of the Special Representative and UNFICYP to facilitate negotiations between the parties, including efforts to promote the implementation of confidence-building measures as a first step.

The consultations of the whole were preceded by a private meeting of the Council with troop-contributing countries to UNFICYP.

On 14 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1789 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP until 15 June 2008. The Council expressed once again its full support for the 8 July process, and urged all parties to show flexibility and political will over the coming months to make the progress which would allow fully fledged negotiations to begin.

Resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

On 12 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council considered the key elements for a presidential statement introduced by the Russian Federation. Although the consultations provided a useful exchange of views, no agreement was reached.

On 19 December, the Council considered, in a private debate, the report of the European Union/United States/Russian Federation Troika on Kosovo (see S/2007/723), submitted to the Secretary-General by the Contact Group at the completion of the Troika's mandate. The Prime Minister of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica, made a statement. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure was extended to Fatmir Sejdiu to take part in the Council's consideration of the above-mentioned report. The Council did not reach any specific conclusion.

Middle East

International Independent Investigation Commission

On 5 December, in a briefing, the Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission, Serge Brammertz, presented to the Council his ninth report on the investigation into the assassination of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri, and 22 other victims (S/2007/684). The Commissioner stated that, on the basis of the progress made in recent months, he was more confident than ever that the investigation could be concluded successfully. The completion of the investigation will however depend on the final results of several still ongoing projects and on the cooperation of all States. Equally important will be the Commission's capacity — and in the next phase, the ability of the office of the Prosecutor — to encourage additional witnesses to come forward. As on previous occasions, the Commissioner was not able to reveal the details of the Commission's findings to preserve the needed confidentiality of the ongoing investigation and to avoid compromising any future legal process at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Nonetheless he explained that his team had been able to answer many key questions regarding the assassinations of February 2005. The Commissioner reported that the Commission continued to provide assistance to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation of the other 18 attacks, including the assassination of Antoine Ghanem. The Council also heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon. In the consultations of the whole that followed, the members of the Council expressed their support for the work of the International Independent Investigation Commission and, in particular, commended Mr. Brammertz for his work as Commissioner, as he was to be succeeded by Daniel Bellemare of Canada. The members of the Council also reiterated their support to the Secretary-General's efforts for the rapid establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and his call on Member States to contribute to its financing.

On 14 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2007/736) in which, on behalf of the Council, he invited the Commission to extend appropriate technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation of the murder of Brigadier General François Hajj.

Iraq-Kuwait

On 11 December, the Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Angela Kane, on behalf of Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator, presented in consultations of the whole the twenty-fifth report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/712) pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999) on Iraqi compliance with obligations regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains and the return of the Kuwaiti national archives. The members of the Council reiterated their support for the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other parties to the Tripartite Commission, and commended the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait for their cooperation. The Council noted with regret that the number of positive identifications remained unchanged. It also reaffirmed its support for the intensification of efforts to find the missing Kuwaiti national archives, regretting that there had been no further developments in identifying their location. Following the consultations, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press.

On 18 December, following the death of Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the repatriation of Kuwaiti property, the President of the Council issued a statement to the press expressing the sadness of Council members at this news, their gratitude for the outstanding contribution of Ambassador Vorontsov to the work of the United Nations, and their condolences to his family.

The situation in the Middle East

On 11 December, the Council, following consultations of the whole on Lebanon, adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/46), in which it stressed its deep concern at the repeated postponements of the presidential election in Lebanon. Emphasizing that the political impasse might lead to further deterioration of the situation, the Council reiterated its call for the holding of a free and fair presidential election in conformity with Lebanese constitutional rules, without any foreign interference or influence, and with full respect for democratic institutions.

On 11 December, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and heard a briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Lisa Buttenheim.

On the same day, in consultations of the whole, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF (S/2007/698) covering the period from 7 June to 31 December 2007. The members of the Council supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the UNDOF mandate for a new six-month period.

On 12 December, in consultations of the whole, the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Geir Pedersen, presented to the Council the fifth report (S/2007/641) on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations also addressed the Council.

Following the consultations, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/47), in which it condemned the terrorist attack in Baadba, which had killed several persons, including General François Hajj of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and injured many others. The Council reiterated its condemnation of all

targeted assassinations of Lebanese leaders and demanded an immediate end to the use of intimidation and violence against the representatives of the Lebanese people and institutions. It stressed the importance of bringing the perpetrators to justice and recalled its support for the Secretary-General's efforts to establish the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in a timely manner, as a means to put an end to impunity and deter further assassinations in Lebanon. It further underlined that no attempt to destabilize Lebanon should prevent the holding of a free and fair presidential election, in conformity with Lebanese constitutional rules, without any foreign interference or influence, and with full respect for democratic institutions. It lastly emphasized the importance of Lebanese national unity and reconciliation.

On 14 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1788 (2007), by which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF until 30 June 2008, and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of that period, a report on the situation and progress in the implementation of resolution 338 (1973). Furthermore, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2007/48) noting the heightened tension in the Middle East and the need for a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem.

On 21 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, on the situation in the Middle East. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole. The Under-Secretary-General remarked on the latest developments in the peace process, stressing that, since the Annapolis conference, bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization had commenced and that strong international engagement had been reflected in a landmark donors' conference, a Quartet meeting, and a meeting of the Quartet and members of the League of Arab States, all held in Paris on 17 December. At the same time, he stated that developments on the ground, including new settlement activity and ongoing violence, had been a cause of concern.

On Lebanon he stated that the presidential election continued to be the focus of negotiations among Lebanese political leaders, and that there appeared to be agreement in principle on the candidature of General Michel Suleiman for the presidency, though the parties remained deeply divided on the steps needed to bring about the election of General Suleiman.

The members of the Council expressed their full support for the bilateral negotiations that followed the Annapolis conference and, more generally, for comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Following the consultations, the President of the Security Council issued a statement to the press according to which Council members welcomed the donors' conference held in Paris and urged a prompt follow-up to the engagements taken on that occasion.

The situation in Iraq

On 18 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1790 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of the multinational force in Iraq until 31 December 2008. The mandate shall be reviewed at the request of Iraq or no later than 15 June 2008, and the Council may terminate it earlier if requested by the Government of Iraq. By resolution 1790 (2007) the Council also extended, for the same period, the

mandates of the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board. Before the adoption of the resolution, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and Controller, Warren Sach, on the activities of the Development Fund for Iraq and the Advisory and Monitoring Board.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

On 18 December, Ambassador Johan C. Verbeke, Permanent Representative of Belgium and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran, briefed the Council on the implementation of resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). He informed the Council that the Committee, which did not hold sessions in the reporting period, received two new reports under resolution 1737 (2006) and five combined reports under resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007), bringing the number of reports under resolution 1737 (2006) to 87 and the number of reports under resolution 1747 (2007) to 71.

Other issues

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

On 6 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, briefed the Council on his visit to Ethiopia, the Sudan and Somalia (26 November-4 December). Council members welcomed the briefing and expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in those countries, stressing the need for strengthened efforts on the part of the concerned Governments and sustained attention by the international community.

International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

In a debate held on 10 December, the Council was briefed on the completion strategies of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by its President, Fausto Pocar, and its Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, and on the completion strategies of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda by its President, Dennis Byron, and its Prosecutor, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, in conformity with resolution 1534 (2004). They reported further progress towards the completion of their mandates. The continuing impunity enjoyed by some leaders responsible for the gravest crimes, however, seriously undermined efforts to bring justice to the victims and to maintain the Tribunals' credibility. In this regard, the Tribunals' authorities called for international assistance to encourage Member States to offer their full cooperation in the apprehension of fugitives. During the discussion concern was expressed about the cooperation of the countries that are able to deliver the fugitives to the Tribunals and on the way of judging them after the period covered by the completion strategies. The representatives of Serbia, Croatia and Rwanda participated in the discussion in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

Subsidiary bodies

On 19 December, the Council held a briefing of the five outgoing Permanent Representatives in their capacities as Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Council.

Ambassador Luc Joseph Okio of the Congo reported on the activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

Ambassador Leslie Kojo Christian of Ghana reported on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003), concerning Iraq, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1636 (2005).

Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales of Peru reported on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004), concerning counter-terrorism.

Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar reported on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia.

Ambassador Peter Burian of Slovakia reported on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions and the Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review.

Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions

On 19 December, the Council adopted the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2007/749) which includes new measures to serve as a guide for the work of the Council, in addition to the provisions of the previous note (S/2006/507). The new measures pertain to participation in informal consultations, the issuing of summary statements on matters of which the Council is seized and the annual report to the General Assembly.

Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review

On 28 December, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review and on the agreement of the Council that the Ad Hoc Committee had reached the main goals for which it was established and therefore could conclude its work (S/2007/770). Any open, unresolved or newly emerging questions related to mandate review would be further addressed in the Council through an appropriate mechanism.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

On 31 December, the members of the Council agreed to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa until 31 December 2008 (see S/2007/771).

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 10 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1787 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate until 31 March 2008. The Council requested the Executive Director to recommend, within 60 days of the adoption of the resolution, possible changes to the organizational plan of the Directorate to be considered and endorsed by the Counter-Terrorism Committee before 31 March 2008.

On 11 December, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/45), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks that occurred in Algiers near the Supreme Court and the United Nations offices, causing numerous deaths and injuries. The Council expressed its condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families, the people and the Government of Algeria, the United Nations staff and the Secretary-General. The Council underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of the terrorist attack to justice, and urged all States to cooperate actively with the Algerian authorities in this regard. It also reiterated its determination to combat by all means, in accordance to the Charter of the United Nations, all forms of terrorism.

On 27 December, the Council, following consultations of the whole, adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/50), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist suicide attack by extremists that occurred the same day in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, causing the death of the former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, and numerous other casualties. The Council expressed its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and to the people and the Government of Pakistan. It paid tribute to the former Prime Minister and called on all Pakistanis to exercise restraint and maintain stability in the country. It underlined the need for those involved in such acts of terrorism to be brought to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate actively with the Pakistani authorities in this regard.

Appendix

Summary of Security Council Work and actions during the presidency of Italy

Debates: 3

Tribunals, 10 December; Security Council mission to Timor-Leste, 13 December; Somalia, 17 December

Private debates: 1

Resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999), 19 December

Briefings: 10

Sudan/International Criminal Court Prosecutor, 5 December; report of the International Independent Investigation Commission, 5 December; Security Council mission to Timor-Leste, 6 December; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, 6 December; Burundi, 6 December; Sierra Leone, 14 December; Security Council subsidiary bodies, 17 December; 1737 Committee, 18 December; Iraq, 18 December; Middle East, 21 December

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Special political mission for the Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas/northern Uganda: S/2007/719 and S/2007/720, 7 December; Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect and Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities: S/2007/721 and S/2007/722, 7 December; letter to the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission on Guinea-Bissau: S/2007/744, 11 December; International Independent Investigation Commission technical assistance to the Government of Lebanon: S/2007/735 and S/2007/736, 14 December; Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions: S/2007/749, 19 December; letter to the Secretary-General on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review and on the agreement that the Committee "has reached the main goals for which it was established and therefore it can conclude its work": S/2007/770, 28 December

Statements to the press: 5

SC/9194 on Iraq-Kuwait, 11 December; SC/9196 on the situation in the Central African Republic, 12 December; SC/9198 on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, 12 December; SC/9206 on the death of Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the repatriation of Kuwaiti property, 18 December; SC/9216 on the situation in the Middle East, 21 December